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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /095 W
---------- 029175
R 241345Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8306
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
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USMISSION BURSSELS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, IN
SUBJECT: EEC PRESIDNET ORTOLI VISITS INDIA

1. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY PRESIDENT FRANCOIS XAVIER ORTOLI VISITED NEW DELHI APRIL 18-22, AS HEAD OF A DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED DR. MANFRED CASPARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND MR. PHILIPPE DE MARGERIE, CHIEF DE CABINET. DURING HIS VISIT, ORTOLI MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CANGHI, COMMERCE MINISTER CHATTOPADHYAYA, FINANCE MINISTER SUBRAMANIAM, MINISTER OF ENERGY PANT, AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN.

2. AN INDINA GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF ORTOLI'S VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO INCREASE EEC IMPORTS OF INDINA PRODUCTS THROUGH RELAXATION OF VARIOUS TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IN ORDER TO HELP INDIA BRING ITS TRADE WITH THE COMMUNITH MORE NEARL INTO BALANCE. INDIA NOW SENDS SOME
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20 PERCENT OF ITS EXPORTS TO EEC COUNTRIES AND PURCHASES ABOUT

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25 PERCENT OF ITS IMPORTS WITHIN THE EEC AND HAS RUN A DEFICIT WITH THE EEC AS A SHOLE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. IN 1973/74 THE DEFICIT WAS 900 MILLION RUPEES (ROUGHLY $120 MILLION).

3. THE EEC PRESIDENT'S VARIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND THE JOINT COMMINIQUE INDICATE THAT ORTOLI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI WERE NOT SIGNIFICANT. ORTOLI SAID THE EEC DID NOT INTEND TO EXTNED THE LOME CONVENTION TO ASIAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA EVEN THOUGH COMMERCE MINISTER CHATTOPADHYAYA APPARTNETLY REQUESTED SIMILAR PRIVILEGES. THE VISIT WAS USED TO PUBLICIZE AGREEMENT REACHED PRIOR TO ORTOLI'S ARRIVAL WHEREBY THE EEC HAS AGREED TO REDUCE BY 60 PERCENT IMPORT TARIFFS ON INDIAN JUTE AND COIR PRODUCTS, WHILE PERMITTING THEIR CONTINUED FREE ACCESS INTO US AND DENMARK. THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT EXPANDING THE GENERALIZED SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO CERTAIN INDIAN EXPORTS IN ADDITION TO TOBACCO, TEA AND PRAWNS WHICH ARE NOW COVERED.

4. THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT ARE BEING HANDLED BY THE IRISH EMBASSY SINCE IRELAND CURRENTLY CHAIRS THE EEC COUNCIL. THE IRISH AMBASSADOR TELLS US THAT ORTILI'S VISIT, WHICH CONTINUES WITH TOURISM IN OTHER AREAS OF INDIA, WAS MORE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SHOWING THE FLAG THAN SUBSTANCE.
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